

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

STAFF AND OFFENDER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

THE TOOL BOX

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

OWL: LEADING TODAY'S POSSIBILITIES AND CREATING TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES FROM REENTRY TO RE-EMPLOYED

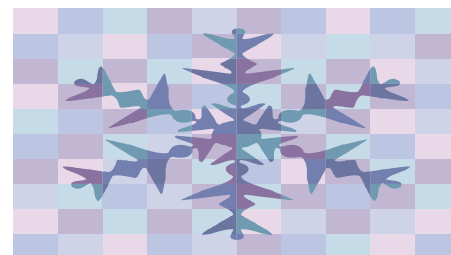
Opportunity for Work and Learning, Inc., (OWL) was founded in 1961 as a work oriented community rehabilitation program. OWL's mission to provide vocational services to assist persons with barriers to employment continues to be a forerunner in supporting the local labor market and the individuals we serve. Over 23,200 individuals have benefited from OWL services since opening. We currently have more than 85 individuals employed with OWL and the Lexington Manufacturing Center (LMC), and are providing vocational services to over 119 consumers within OWL and in the local communities. OWL collaborates with over sixty local businesses and community partners to meet the needs of our consumers and customers. OWL provides job training and placement services for individuals with disabilities, and expanded these services in 1996 to include an effective and regionally accepted re-entry training program. All vocational training is provided on site through the Lexington Manufacturing Center (LMC) and the OWL Center.

Individuals seeking assistance may be referred through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Office for Employment and Training (OET), Community Action Council or through OWL's temporary employment program, Commonwealth Staffing Services. OWL's available employment services provide individuals with the opportunity to learn or strengthen their basic work habits/behaviors, provide job training in a variety of fields, and develop a current work history. OWL also provides vocational assessments and evaluations for vocational planning; evaluate an individual's physical and emotional tolerance for work demands; and to prepare, enter, and maintain community based competitive employment. The goal is to provide individualized services resulting in successful job placement and retention.

OWL currently offers two, highly successful training programs as options for services for individuals seeking a more specialized job training program. The OWL Forklift/Materials Handling/Logistics Certification Program in conjunction with the Lexington Manufacturing Center has provided a gateway to employment for returning citizens that leads to self-sufficiency at a much faster pace. The new Customer Service Representative Certification Training Program started in 2014 is available for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

OWL is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization which is 100% self-funded. We are partners with the Bluegrass Re-entry Council, Franklin County Drug Court, Fayette County Drug Court and multiple other agencies within the community that assist returning citizens for successful re-entry. For more information call 859.254.0576 or visit OWL on the web at www.owlinc.net.

650 Kennedy Road
Lexington, KY 40511
(859) 254-0576 - FAX (859) 254-0578
www.owlinc.net



NOTICE!!
EFFECTIVE THIS MONTH,
JANUARY 2015, THE
MONTHLY TOOLBOX
WILL BE MADE
AVAILABLE QUARTERLY.
JANUARY, APRIL, AUGUST
AND DECEMBER.

Need Information about the Affordable Care Act? Contact:

KYNECT.KY.GOV

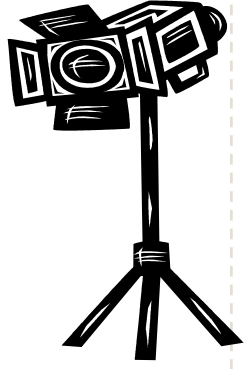
Call Center:

1-855-4kynect
(855-459-6328)

Insurance Agents and
Kynectors:
1-855-326-4650

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Spotlight on Reentry Staff

Going Above and Beyond

January 2015: Linzie Abell, District 6— Bardstown Probation and Parole

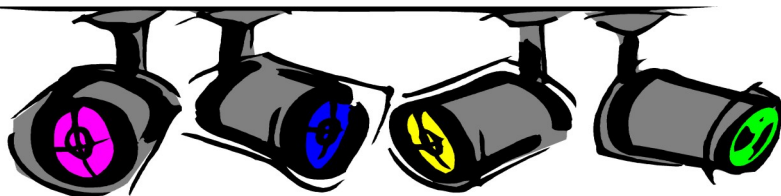


Officer Linzie Abell began his career with the Department of Corrections on August 16, 2010 as a Nelson and Larue County Probation & Parole Officer, working out of the Bardstown Probation & Parole Office. Officer Abell is currently a Regular Supervision Officer managing a caseload and workload for Nelson and Larue Counties. In addition to his regular duties as a Supervision Officer, Officer Abell is also the Class D and Home Incarceration Officer backup. Officer Abell is a Re-entry Programs Facilitator and facilitating 24/7 Dads Re-entry programs as well as New Directions Re-entry Programs and he is very involved in the Department's Re-entry efforts. Officer Abell has trained to facilitate all current re-entry programs. Officer Abell exceeds expectations with regards to making himself available to attend as many Re-entry training sessions and meetings as possible. Officer Abell has attended DNA Trainers training at the KSP Lab in Frankfort and also taught Criminal Justice classes at Brown Mackie College. The effort he has exerted to maintain his regular duties and still be a major contributor to our Re-entry efforts has been exemplary. Officer Abell also became a Core Correctional Practices Trainer and facilitated training for P&P Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors as well as a session for a group of DOC employees at the Eastern Region Training Center. Officer Abell is very conscientious of his duties as a Probation & Parole Officer and executes his duties with the highest level of professionalism. He is always willing to assist supervisory staff and his fellow officers in any capacity necessary. Officer Abell has proven himself to be an invaluable asset to the Bardstown P&P Office, District 6 and the Department of Corrections. Officer Abell is also currently in the Commissioners Executive Leadership Program.

Submitted by: Warren Lambert- District 6, Probation and Parole Supervisor



Do you have a success story? Would you like to share it? If so, please contact the Offender Reentry Branch. 502-564-2220 or Email: Kerry.Mears@ky.gov, starlene.smith-wrigh@ky.gov or Melissaj.moore@ky.gov



Spotlight on Reentry Staff

Going Above and Beyond January 2015:
Steve Conway— Eastern Kentucky Correctional
Complex (EKCC)



The Re-Entry Coordinator, Steve Conway, is responsible for trying to find a suitable placement, using the limited resources available for sex offender placement. Sometimes, hotels are deemed a suitable placement, as long as they are approved by the Parole Officer. Whatever the placement, the placement is submitted through the Kentucky Offender Management System (KOMS), then submitted to the appropriate Parole district for approval. Last, some inmates do not have a home to go back to. The Reentry Coordinator will attempt to find them a placement at a homeless shelter, hotel or other residential housing if available. He is responsible for maintaining lists of inmates who have HIV (Human Immune-Deficiency Virus) and coordinates treatment once they are released. Inmates are referred to a clinic in their area so that they can be afforded care for HIV. Some clinics require appointments, and Steve will make sure to schedule that appointment for the inmate. In addition to maintain these lists, he assists Veteran's with placements, obtaining medical records, and health benefits. He coordinates with the Veteran Administrators, who can assist veterans with questions concerning their benefits once they are released. Steve attends monthly staff meetings with the other Re-Entry Coordinators across the state and the Family Engagement Sessions held within the region.

Mr. Conway moderates two programs, PORTAL New Direction and Pre-Release Booster Session. PORTAL New Direction is a six (6) month program that is designed to assist inmates to reenter society by giving them the tools they need prior to their release to be successful. Pre-Release Booster Session is a program given a month or two out from release to inmates who will be leaving out on Parole, Mandatory Reentry Supervision, or Serve out. Information is given on resources available in the communities they will be returning to, possible job contacts, reentry support information, applications for social security cards and birth certificates, as well as a presentation and video on "Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome." Mr. Conway is also responsible for determining inmate's eligibility for the Home Incarceration Program (HIP). Home placements are verified and then submitted upon verification. A final determination of eligibility is the responsibility of the Records Department. Mr. Conway is also responsible for submitting applications for "Restoration of Civil Rights", which is distributed by the Records Department. He will aide the offender in filling out the applications.

Mr. Conway is responsible for monthly Parole Hearings and weekly Parole Revocation hearings, which are held at EKCC. Monthly parole hearings at EKCC are done by Parole Board members, which can be on-site or via video feed. Weekly Parole Revocation Hearings are conducted in the Parole Office hearing room. These hearings are for local jails that currently do not have video conferencing available at their locations.



Why Do I Need Identification Upon My Release?

By Cheryl Million

Just imagine...it's finally time for you to go home. You made parole and can leave in just a couple of days or maybe you are serving out and hope to make a fresh start. Your family has been without your financial and emotional support for several years and times have been difficult. Your children have had to grow up without your daily influence. While you were incarcerated your driver's license expired, you **think** your mother has your birth certificate but you're not sure and your social security card was in your wallet, but of course you haven't seen either of those items in years!

Without proper identification you will be denied many benefits that can support you, your family and successful reentry. For example; a drivers license, food stamps, social security benefits, housing, employment, checking account, educational opportunities, loan applications, credit card and in some cases Veteran's benefits. This will cause you and your family unnecessary stress when you need to be organized and ready for new adjustments.

To avoid this pit fall, make sure you have the proper identification upon your release. The first step is to apply for your birth certificate as soon as possible. Kentucky birth certificates are \$10 and other states may be more. The cost can be deducted from your inmate account. Your reentry coordinator can assist in this process. For those of you that are Veterans, request your DD214, and again your Reentry Coordinator can provide the necessary information.

Because this has become such an issue, HB 428: "INMATE ID CARDS", provides the necessary information that outlines what items you will need to obtain an identification card at the Circuit Court Clerks office.

The Kentucky Department of Corrections shall issue a release letter containing the following information for each offender upon departure:

- Full legal name
- Discharge/release date
- Your signature
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Physical Description
- Listed address where you will reside
- Copy of your resident record card
- Parole Certificate
- Notice of Discharge
- Your Photograph printed on plastic card

The ID letter is created directly from KOMS by institutional staff or the parole officer for your facility and will be issued as part of your release paperwork. Take the ID letter, resident record card, and parole certificate/notice of discharge, along with your **birth certificate** to the Circuit Court Clerks office in the county where you will be living. The personnel in the Circuit Court Clerks office will issue you a personal identification card or an operator's license **after** payment of the application fee. Your Reentry Coordinator can provide assistance in finding out the amount of money you will need for your birth certificate and ID or operator's license.

If you have an active driver's license or personal identification card issued to you by another state, you are not able to claim dual residency and receive Kentucky identification. If going out of state, they'd go directly to that state to secure ID. No need to get a Kentucky ID in the meantime.

Obtaining personal identification is one of the most important steps for a smooth, well organized transition to the outside world and the first step in obtaining your identification is your birth certificate. If you have the funds, see your reentry coordinator and order it today. If you don't have the available funds, start saving your money toward the \$10.00 fee for Kentucky.

**Remember, it's never too early for
your release preparation.**

~Congratulations Ladies~

We would like to say “Congratulations” to Catlettsburg’s First “Thinking for A Change” Graduating Class. Below is a poem written by one of the graduating participants, Tammy Strong.

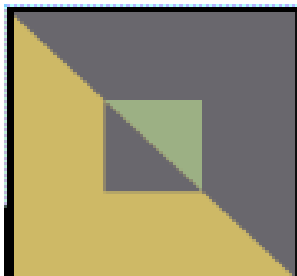
The Ultimate Six Pack

You'd say being felons brought us together one day
 We kinda decided it was finally the right way
 Three of us already were friends that day
 Then i met Madera and I began to pray
 Lord what have I done
 You put me in here with a lady who thinks this is fun
 But now we our the greatest friends you see
 I wouldn't take nothing for her I'd agree
 Then there's my friend Joyce who I met in Sap
 Who I've seen almost snap
 Grew to be the best of friends you see
 Wanting her to always know that I'll always be
 Then we get to my best friend who I adore
 Sometimes she'd probably want to knock me on the floor
 Rohna knows I'll always be there through thick and thin
 Right to the very end
 Then we get to Missy always with a smile on her face
 Never looking down on us with disgrace Teaching us
 that we need to think before we act
 Making us act it out like where in a pact
 Not putting us down because we've done wrong
 Giving us a chance to prove that where strong
 Not judging us from our past
 Wanting us to graduate with a blast
 Then there's Tabitha who does her job so well
 Standing up there writing like hell
 Some call her the devil well I don't agree
 She has not only been my parole officer she's also been a friend to me
 I've never had that someone who would call and ask are you okay
 After I'd had that horrible day
 This class has taught me it's okay to hurt and okay to cry
 Showing your feelings ain't gonna make you die
 It feels good to think before you decide
 Because without it many would have lied
 Everyday I get out of bed
 I put my fingers up to my head
 My husband ask what the hell are you doing that for
 I stop and think before I slam the door
 Honey what do you want to eat today
 Any other time I'd just walk away
 Today I do think before I didn't care
 I have to much to loss or to spare
 Thank you Missy and Tabitha for teaching us so well
 Because neither one of us wants to go back to that hell!



Left to Right: Officer Tabitha Donahue, Graduates: Joyce Puryear, Tammy Strong, Madara McPeak, Rohna Johnson, and Officer Melissa Handley

YOU ARE INVITED:



Northeast Kentucky Family & Friends of the Incarcerated

On January 29, 2015 guest speaker Kerry Mears with the Department of Corrections Re-Entry Branch will be available for a Family Engagement Question & Answer session at:

**A New Avenue
1211 Forest Avenue
Maysville, KY
6:30 PM—8:00 PM**

Northeast Kentucky area encompasses:
Bracken, Mason, Robertson, Fleming, Lewis, Rowan,
Bath, Montgomery, Menifee, and Morgan counties

www.kentuckyreentry.org
www.facebook.com/kentuckyreentry
www.facebook.com/KentuckyFamiliesoftheIncarcerated



Contact:
Kerry.Mears@ky.gov
502-782-2256
corrections.ky.gov

Families of the Incarcerated in Kentucky:

Green River Kentucky Reentry Empowering Family and Friends of the Incarcerated
2400 Friendship Drive, Suite B
Owensboro, KY 42303

**Meets the second Friday of each month from
6:00 pm—8:00 pm.**
Contact: 270-852-6516

Covers Hancock, Webster, Daviess,
McLean, Henderson, Ohio, and Union
Counties

Northern Kentucky Family & Friends of the Incarcerated
Catholic Charities
3629 Church Street
Covington, KY 41015

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
Contact: David R. Phillips 859-581-8974 ext. 117

Covers Boone, Kenton, Campbell,
Gallatin, Carroll, Owen, Grant, and
Pendleton Counties

Bluegrass Families of the Incarcerated
National College
2376 Sir Barton Way
Lexington, KY

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm
Contact: jammorton@gmail.com, 859-338-9821 (Jim), or sheknorton@gmail.com, 859-338-9820 (Sheryl)

Covers Fayette, Harrison, Scott, Franklin,
Nicholas, Bourbon, Woodford, Anderson,
Mercer, Boyle, Lincoln, Garrard, Jessamine,
Clark, Powell, Madison, and Estill Counties

Central Kentucky's Family & Friends of the Incarcerated
& Convicted
Cornerstone Church Of God
1200 Ruth Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Meets third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Contact: Eva , Email: freedomministriesky@gmail.com; or Frank frank_anglin@yahoo.com

Covers Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin,
Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and
Washington Counties

Five County Family & Friends of the Incarcerated & Convicted
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1930 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

Meets the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm—8:00 pm
Contact: Lynette, Email: lsmiller0819@yahoo.com

Covers Greenup, Carter, Elliott, Boyd, and
Lawrence Counties

Family Resources Engaging Ex-Offenders
Living Hope Baptist Church
1805 Western Avenue, Door M
Bowling Green, KY 42104 (Go to the right, down the
steps)

Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm
Contact: 270-991-4556, George Hampton or Email: carol.hampton87@yahoo.com

Covers Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Barren,
Metcalf, Warren, Logan, Simpson, Allen
and Monroe Counties

Families of the Incarcerated in Kentucky:

Proclamation of the Word Ministry's
Southeast Christian Church: Blankenbaker Campus in AT-109
Louisville, KY
Meets every Thursday at 7:15 pm
Facilitators: Darryl and Tiffany Davis
Contact: proclamationoftheword@yahoo.com

(Covers Jefferson County)

Greater Louisville Reentry Coalition of Family & Friends of the Incarcerated
Louisville, KY
Contact: Melissa—melissaamosjones@gmail.com

(Covers Jefferson, Bullitt, Spencer,
Shelby, Oldham, Henry, Trimble
Counties)

ANY UPDATES, CORRECTIONS, QUESTIONS, ETC, PLEASE CONTACT THE REENTRY OFFICE
AT 502-564-2220 OR EMAIL:

KERRY MEARS—Kerry.mears@ky.gov
STARLENE SMITH-WRIGHT—starlene.smith-wright@ky.gov OR
MELISSA MOORE—melissaj.moore@ky.gov

YOU HAVE A VOICE!! Want to use it?

Interested in joining a Reentry Council in your area?

Below you will find the Reentry Councils of Kentucky and their contact information.

KENTUCKY RE-ENTRY COUNCILS

Kentucky Reentry is made up of reentry task forces or councils throughout the state of Kentucky. The reentry groups do not provide services for ex-offenders, nor do they have reentry programs. They are made up of individuals and organizations networking together to share information and improve the reentry process. The members may be organizations and/or individuals that provide services and/or have interests in helping. Each group is focused toward ex-offenders coming back to their areas, the issues involved, and making their community safer.

The basic purposes of each group are:

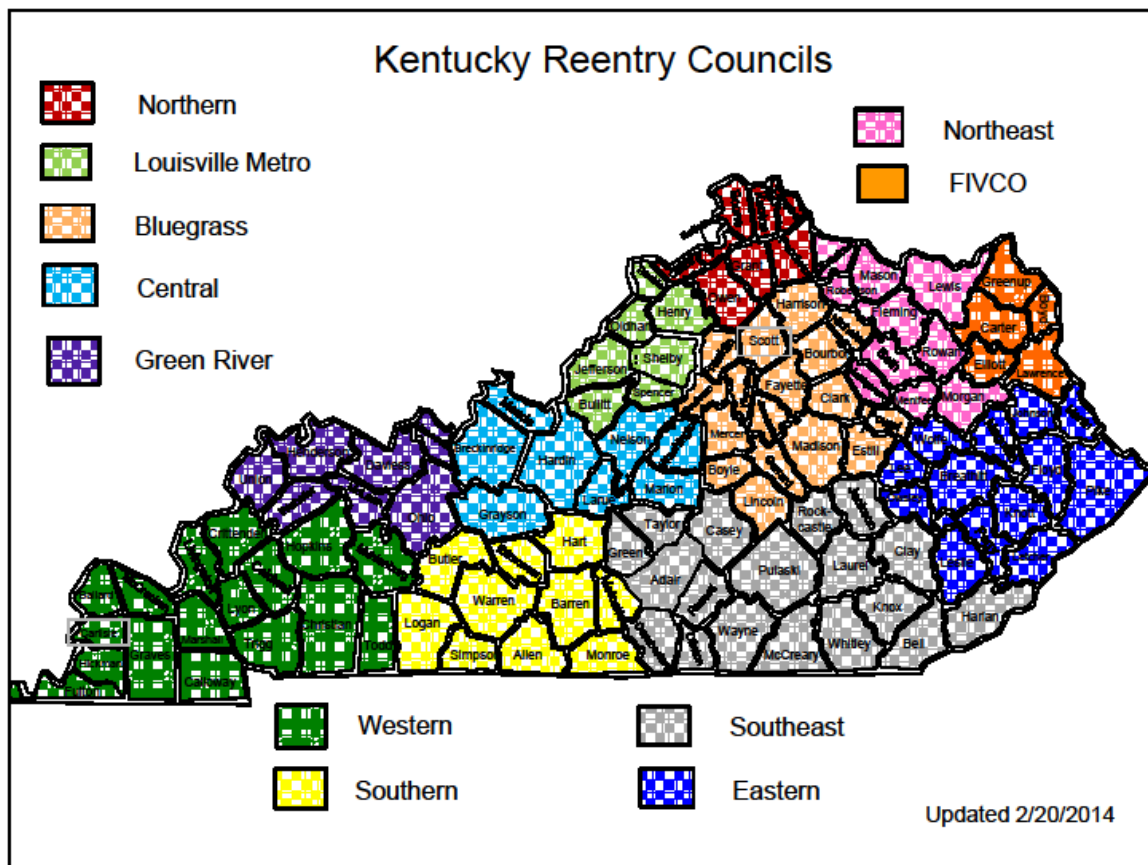
- To address the current issues ex-offenders face
- To develop a network of resources and service providers within their area
- To communicate and advocate ex-offender issues to the community and their leaders

Please visit the website: www.kentuckyreentry.org

Also, visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyReentry>

<https://www.facebook.com/louisvillereentry>





CONTACT INFORMATION

Need Resources or Information?

Check out our website: <http://corrections.ky.gov/reentry>

Click on “Pre-Release Community Resources”

www.secondchanceky.org

Do you have a felony?

Do you know someone with a felony?

Do you or someone you know need assistance with employment, housing, education, meals, and other sources to be successful?

Do you need a second chance?

www.secondchanceky.org is a website dedicated to helping people overcome obstacles in the pathway to success.

If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, articles, etc. for the TOOLBOX, please email to: kerry.mears@ky.gov, starlene.smith-wrigh@ky.gov or melissaj.moore@ky.gov